

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended so that the cleaning system for the removal of coagulant residue from ceramic or porcelain formers consists of four baths comprising washing or rinsing solutions. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found in original claims 6 and 7 and in the Examples.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-10 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Kitahara (US 6,615,852).

Applicant respectfully traverses. Kitahara's invention is directed towards a cleaning machine for a die for a synthetic resin mold. Kitahara's machine comprises a degreasing processing system, an electrolytic-cleaning system with an electrolyte circulator system, an ultrasonic agitation system and a rinse system. The degreasing processing system of Kitahara's invention is located at the beginning of the machine and comprises a tank containing organic degreasing solvents (col.3, lines 56-59). Adjoining the degreasing processing system of Kitahara's invention is an electrolytic-cleaning device (col. 3, lines 55-56). The electrolytic-cleaning device has an ultrasonic transducer (col. 8, lines 33-36) to assist the washing process via ultrasonic and electrolysis methods (col. 3, lines 50-51). In Kitahara's invention, a rinse tank is located after the electrolytic-cleaning device to wash electrolyte, and any attachments, from the die (col. 7, lines 27-32). A "booth" is located after the rinse tank to provide hot air to the die to help to dry it.

Applicant's invention consists of four baths for the removal of coagulant residue from ceramic and/or porcelain formers. The first bath comprises an aqueous solution of ethylene diaminetetraacetate (EDTA), the second bath comprises an aqueous solution of EDTA and/or detergent and/or base, the third bath is situated between the first and second baths and comprises water, and the fourth bath is situated after the second bath and also comprises water. Unlike Kitahara, applicant's invention does not have a degreasing bath, an ultrasonic transducer, an electrolytic process or an air-drying booth to effectively clean the formers. There is no disclosure in Kitahara of a cleaning system consisting of four baths, nor is there any indication in Kitahara's disclosure that a system consisting of four baths could clean formers. Kitahara's invention discloses a machine

comprising three baths and one drying booth. Kitahara does not teach each and every identical element of applicant's invention and therefore cannot be said to anticipate it.

Applicant's claims as now amended are not anticipated by Kitahara and applicants respectfully request the Examiner to remove the rejection on these grounds.

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 102(e) rejection is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional matters can be handled expeditiously by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

End of Remarks